

Date December 19, 2019
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Subject Kootenay Clean Energy Transition Pilot Project Funding

REQUEST

Fund the Kootenay Clean Energy Transition Pilot Project for two years.

OPTIONS

1. THAT up to \$15,000 per year be allocated for two years to the Kootenay Clean Energy Transition Pilot Project with funds to come from the Climate Action Reserve Fund.
2. THAT the Community Energy Manager be advised that RDEK will not participate in the Kootenay Clean Energy Transition Pilot Project at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

Building on a proven track record of collaboration on innovative climate action projects, the Kootenay Clean Energy Transition Pilot Project could result in significant GHG reductions and prepare a workforce capable of supporting and promoting the installation of low carbon technologies well beyond the end of this two-year project.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Community Energy Manager has a proven track record of leading innovative regional collaborations, such as the award winning Accelerate Kootenays project, which has led the Kootenays to have the highest rate of growth in electric vehicle adoption of any jurisdiction in BC. The Kootenay Clean Energy Transition is an innovative, high-impact climate action program focused on reducing emissions in the two highest emissions sectors – the built environment and transportation.

The Kootenay Clean Energy Transition will create significant GHG reductions and support opportunities for broad market transformation. The three key activities of the project are:

1. Communications and messaging around clean energy alternatives
2. Address cost and access to low carbon technologies through bulk purchase and discounts of products and services (energy efficiency audits, electric vehicles, EV chargers, air source heat pumps, solar arrays, electric bicycles)
3. Workforce and business sector development

The Community Energy Association and Kootenay Employment Services have partnered to provide administrative assistance and support market transformation. Contributions from the RDEK and other Kootenay regional districts are being sought and will be leveraged through contributions from other partners and an application will be made to the FCM signature project fund, which has up to \$500,000 available in match funding. The full scope of the project is

anticipated to be a two-year, \$1.2 Million initiative which will develop a trained workforce capable of supporting and promoting the installation of low carbon technologies well beyond the end of this two-year project.

Should all three Kootenay regional districts participate in this initiative, the tri-region program will function much like Accelerate Kootenays, where the RDEK Community Energy Manager will function as project lead and staff from each of the participating regional districts will support local program delivery.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Regional Sustainability Strategy

Economy

5.3.4 Light Industry

Increase the number and types of value-added industries to augment the region's economic pillars (mining, forestry and tourism). Support these opportunities through municipal and RDEK land use regulations, transportation and infrastructure services, workforce training and other business support programs.

Climate and Energy

10.3.2 Green Technology

b) Promote and facilitate local incentives for the use of green technology in residential applications.

10.3.4 Partnerships

Partner with Columbia Basin Trust, neighbouring regional districts, non-governmental organizations and other agencies in the proactive management of climate related issues.

10.3.5 Green Energy

Support green energy projects where a sound business case and demonstrable GHG reductions are evident.

Financial

RDEK funding for the Kootenay Clean Energy Transition Pilot Project will come from the Climate Action Reserve Fund. The Climate Action Reserve Fund is used to support community-based climate action and energy efficiency projects and has a current balance of \$16,149.57. The entirety of the annual CARIP grant (approximately \$10,000/year) is deposited into the fund.

Attachment: [Kootenay Clean Energy Transition: Market Transformation and Capacity Building](#)